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**For Immediate Release**

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## **ECC Honors Transfer Program among the Top Three Community Colleges in Southern California for Students Admitted to UCLA**

Recent El Camino College graduate Christopher Urquilla admits that he wasn't the most dedicated student while in high school. But after watching a friend succeed in ECC's Honors Transfer Program (HTP), he knew he wanted follow the same path. After graduation, he enrolled in El Camino College and the HTP, got serious about studying and is now headed to UCLA with plans to attend medical school.

"The Honors Transfer program allowed me to take tougher courses and challenge myself," said Christopher, a sociology major who graduated from Hawthorne High School in 2013. "I thought it would be so complex to transfer, but Honors Transfer Program staff members help along the way."

El Camino College's Honors Transfer Program offers support and assistance to prepare highly-motivated students for transfer to a university. The HTP features the Transfer Alliance Program (TAP), which offers counseling, guidance, and priority admission consideration to UCLA for students like Christopher. This year, 93 percent of ECC's Honors Transfer Program's TAP-certified students were admitted to UCLA, an all-time record high for El Camino College and among the highest percentage of area colleges. In all, 133 HTP students from ECC will transfer to a four-year college or university this fall.

"The Honors Transfer Program is the best route a student can follow to get admitted to UCLA," said Joseph Holliday, HTP co-director. "The El Camino College HTP is one of the largest members of the Transfer Alliance Program with UCLA, which triples the chance of a student getting admitted to the university."

El Camino College's HTP students finished an outstanding 2014-15 academic year. A record number of 30 HTP students participated in the California Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC) Student Research Conference at the University of California, Irvine this past spring. The conference allows community college honors students to present their research in a university setting. Students Wyatt Matern and Gabriela Lopez received two of the 22 Exemplary Student Achievement Scholarships awarded at the conference.

Offering a unique learning environment that stresses scholastic excellence, The HTP supports highly motivated students who want to transfer to the finest universities. Students have access to a variety of benefits, such as priority registration, academic and social interaction with other highly motivated students, smaller class sizes, designation of HTP on El Camino College transcripts/degrees, and enrichment seminars.

This fall, 135 new HTP students from area high schools will join a group of continuing El Camino College students. The program will serve a record of approximately 600 students this year, which makes ECC's HTP one of the three largest honors programs in the state.

"We are looking forward to another great year with the Honors Transfer Program," Holliday said. "The HTP is a fully supported program, with a program assistant, two directors, and counselors who work together to guide students and coordinate special workshops and other events throughout the year."

For more information about the El Camino College Honors Transfer Program, visit [www.elcamino.edu/academics/honorstransfer/](http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/honorstransfer/).

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